

# Welcome!

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# The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and 988

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If you or someone you know is thinking about suicide,  
CALL 1-800-273-8255 or text HOME to 741741

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# Nebraska Suicide Facts

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On average, one person dies by suicide every 32 hours in Nebraska. Suicide was the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Nebraska.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for ages 10-34
- 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for ages 35-44
- 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for ages 45-54
- 7<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for ages 55-64
- Rate/100,000 is highest in ages 35-39 and 45-49

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# What is the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline?

- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a national network of local crisis call centers that provide free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- The trained crisis worker listens and works to understand how a caller's problem is affecting their life, provide support, and connect them to resources.



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# National Lifeline Call Data

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- 18 million calls answered since 2005 (includes Veterans Crisis Line).
- 9 million of those calls were answered in the past 4 years.
- Over 2.4 million calls answered in 2020 alone.
- Interpretation services are provided for individuals with limited English proficiency.

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# National Lifeline Centers

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- 180 centers are in the Lifeline network. 200 more are expected by summer.
- Centers are independently operated and independently funded though all receive a Lifeline participation stipend.
- 9 centers provide national backup services when local centers can't address the call volume.

Lifeline data as of February 2021

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# Nebraska Lifeline Center

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- The National Lifeline Center is operated by Boys Town.
- Staffed by specially trained counselors.
- Accredited by American Association of Suicidology (AAS).
- Spanish-speaking counselors and translation for more than 100 languages.
- Serves as a backup to the National Call Center.
- 8,000 + calls from Nebraskans per year.

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# National Lifeline Minimum Requirements

- Must be accredited.\*
- Carry liability insurance (\$1 million per occurrence, \$3 million aggregate).
- Capacity to handle call or chat volume for a specified region or set of hours.
- Develop and maintain operational policies and procedures.
- Provide training for staff which aligns with Lifeline's clinical standards.
- Adhere to Lifeline's clinical standards for safety assessment and working with those at imminent risk for harm to self or others.
- Offer local referrals and resources to individuals.
- Participate in Lifeline evaluation and quality improvement activities.

*\*As of spring 2021, Lifeline accepts accreditation from: American Association of Suicidology, International Council for Helplines, Alliance of Information and Referral Systems, The Joint Commission, Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, Council on Accreditation, Utilization Review Accreditation Commission, plus state/county licensure on approval from Lifeline/SAMHSA*



- National effort – organized at the state level.
- Connects a person in a mental health or substance use crisis to a trained counselor who can address their immediate needs and help connect them to ongoing care or resources.
- Opportunity to reduce use of law enforcement for behavioral health crisis response.

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# Timeline for Change

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- Mental health and suicide prevention advocates seeking a national, easy to remember 3-digit number for individuals in crisis took their idea to their states and Congress.
- The National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act (8/2018) directed the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in conjunction with other agencies, to study these issues.
- In August 2019, the FCC Commission report to Congress recommended 988.
- In December 2019, FCC initiated rulemaking to designate 988.
- In July 2020, FCC finalized Rule and Order designating 988 with a July 2022 deadline for telecom providers to make operational.

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# Coordinated Crisis Continuum

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- Crisis Center (someone to talk to)
- Mobile Crisis Response Teams (someone to respond)
- Crisis Receiving and Stabilization Services (somewhere to go)

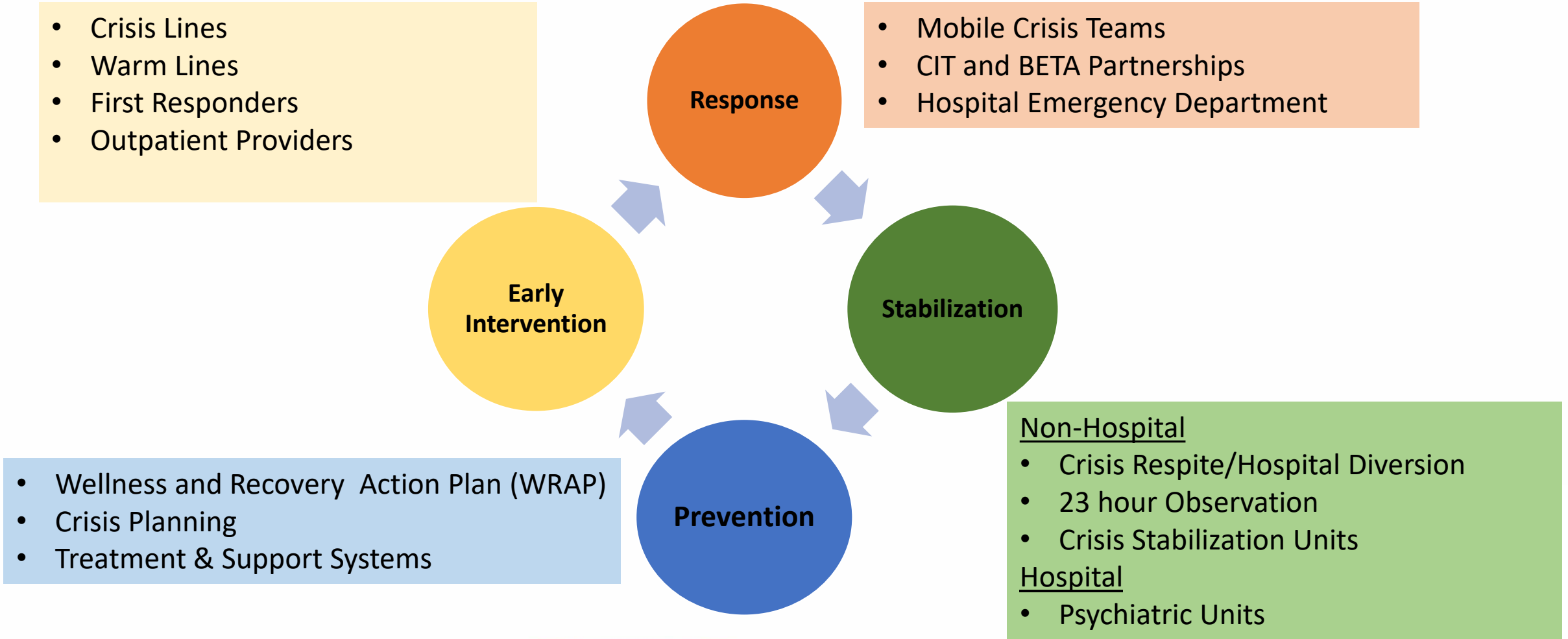
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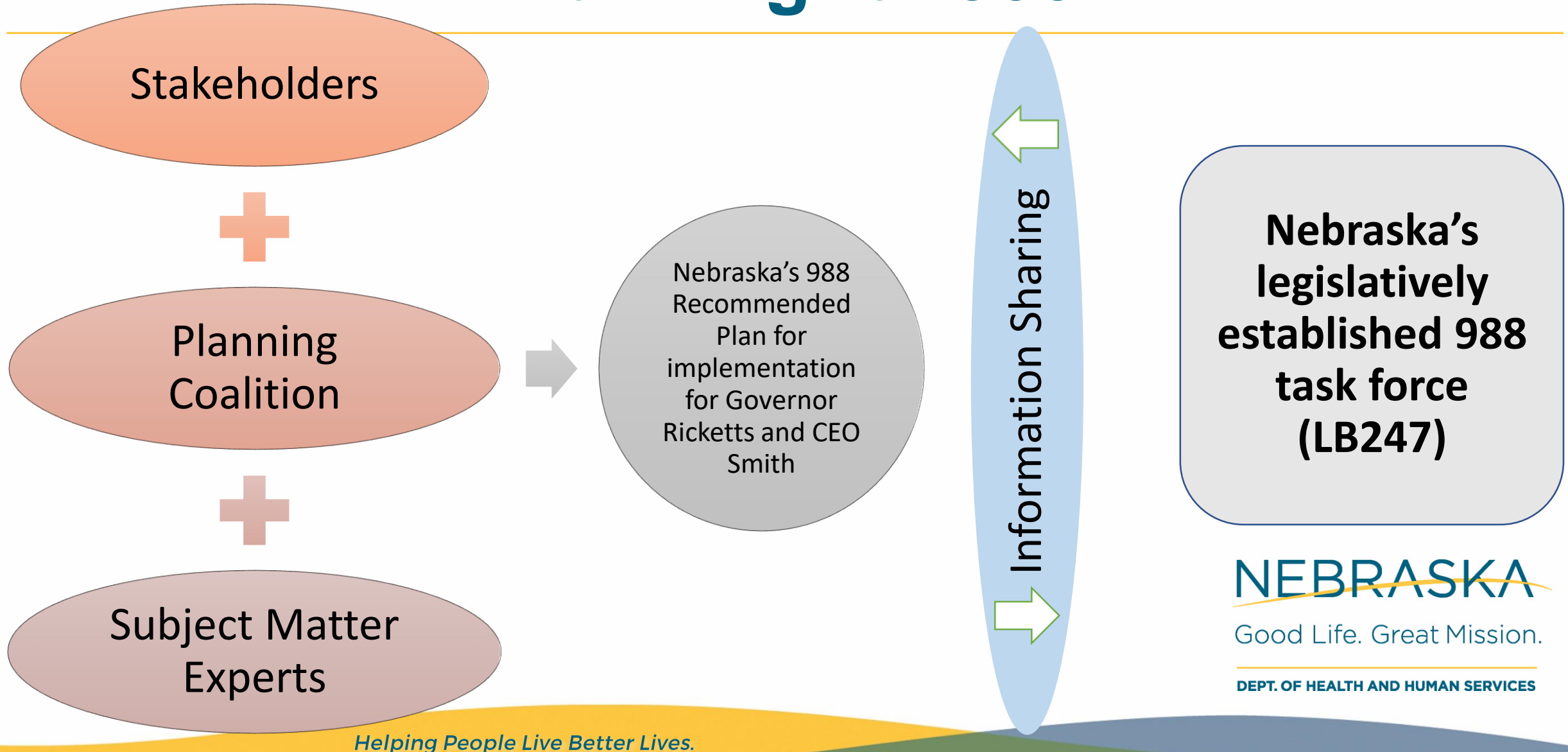
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# Nebraska's Crisis Services Continuum



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# Planning for 988



# 988 State Planning Grant

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- Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and administered by Vibrant Emotional Health
- \$130,000 awarded to DHHS-DBH
  - Grant period runs March 2021- September 2021.
  - Grant activities are dedicated to the development of an implementation plan for 988 in Nebraska. The plan will identify projected infrastructure needs, volume growth, and access to the Lifeline's new 988 number.
- Additionally, Nebraska will review the current crisis response system processes and service continuum.

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# Monthly Stakeholder Sessions

Presentation Dates	Focus
April 29 2021	Orientation to Nebraska's 988 Planning Efforts
May 24, 2021	Orientation to the ideal 988 Crisis Service Continuum
June 28, 2021	Orientation to 911/988/211/Helpline Shared Protocols
July 26, 2021	988 Lifeline Call Center Costs
August 30, 2021	988 Desired Outcomes and Metrics. Messaging Campaigns
September 27, 2021	Review Plan and Recommendations Draft

# 988 Planning Coalition

Organization	Representative Name and Title
NE DHHS- Division of Behavioral Health	Bernie Hascall, System of Care administrator
NE DHHS-Division of Public Health	Peg Ogea-Ginsburg, Injury Prevention Program manager
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	Ginny Gohr, director
	Kristine Bosiljevac, manager
Nebraska Family Helpline	Kyle Kinney, program manager
Public Service Commission	Dave Sankey, program director, State 911 Department
NAMI-Nebraska	Carrin Meadows, interim executive director
Department of Education	Jolene Palmer, director, School Safety and Security
University of Nebraska Public Policy Center	Denise Bulling, senior research director Ashley Miller, research specialist



# Next Steps

- Monthly and ad hoc stakeholder/work group meetings
- Ongoing TA and Community of Practice opportunities through Vibrant

To be added to information distribution lists or to receive an invitation to information sharing meetings, please contact Bernie Hascall at [Bernie.Hascall@nebraska.gov](mailto:Bernie.Hascall@nebraska.gov)



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